

Serial No.: N/A  
Amendment Dated: December 8, 2003  
Attorney Docket No. 056208.50373C1

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1.-6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (New) An AC type plasma display panel comprising:

a front panel provided with display electrodes and a rear panel provided with address electrodes, said front and rear panels displaying an image by causing discharge in a discharge gas space formed between said front and rear panels;

a dielectric layer placed on said front panel;

a protective film made of metallic oxide covering said dielectric layer, said protective film being formed into columnar structures densely packed, closely with each other;

wherein the columnar structures of said protective film extend continuously and perpendicularly to the interface between said dielectric layer and

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said protective film to the surface of said protective film, and more than 400 columnar structures are formed per the substrate area of  $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}^2$ .

Claim 8. (New) An AC type plasma display panel according to Claim 7, wherein the number of the columnar structures formed per the substrate area of  $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}^2$  is more than 500.

Claim 9. (New) An AC type plasma display panel according to Claim 7, wherein the metallic oxide is magnesium oxide.

Claim 10. (New ) An AC type plasma display panel according to Claim 7, wherein the film thickness to be formed as said protective film is less than 300 nm.

Claim 11. (New) An AC type plasma display panel according to Claim 7, wherein said protective film is structured with one or more crystal axes, selected among a group of  $\langle 111 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 220 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 100 \rangle$  and  $\langle 311 \rangle$ , along the normal on the substrate surface.